

REMARKS

Applicant's undersigned counsel thanks Examiner Jolley for her careful and thorough examination of the present application.

Initially, Applicant affirms its election to prosecute claims 1-7 and 14 in this application, Group I as identified in the last Office action. Moreover, withdrawn claims 8-13 have now been amended to depend from claim 1. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that these claims be rejoined in the application, and allowed on allowance of claim 1.

The drawings have been objected-to. Fig. 1 has been amended herein to overcome the objection to the drawings.

The specification has been objected-to due to an informality. The specification has been amended to overcome the Examiner's objection.

Claim 2 has been objected-to due to an informality. Claim 2 has been amended to overcome the objection.

Claims 1-7 have been rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Claim 1 has been amended to cancel the phrase "in a specific way," which is believed to overcome most of the Section 112 rejections. As for "sub source" in claims 6 and 7, it is respectfully submitted that this term is not indefinite, and is described in the specification, for example in the paragraph at the top of page 5 as-filed. There, it is indicated that a thermal source "may comprise several sub sources," wherein each sub source can be directed to a different location of the substrate while it is spinning. This way, thermal conditions can be selectively and independently controlled at different locations adjacent each sub source. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that all the Section 112, second paragraph rejections have been overcome.

Claims 1 and 14 have both been rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by each of three different references: Shirley, Thakur and Kim et al. (hereinafter "Kim"). Both claims 1 and 14 have been amended to specify that the thermal conditioning is effected by a thermal source of heat or cold placed *above the surface* of the substrate and *directing a stream of heated or cooled gas to the substrate*. See claims 1 and 14 as-amended. None of the cited references discloses both these features. Specifically, neither Shirley nor Kim discloses or suggests placing a heat/cold

source above the substrate. To the contrary, in both these references, temperature control is effected from underneath the substrate.

Regarding Thakur, this reference does not disclose or suggest (nor can it) directing a stream of heated or cooled gas toward the substrate. To do so would either vaporize or blow away the atomized droplets in that reference, prior to their being deposited on the substrate, which would render Thakur inoperative. (Note that in Thakur, the liquid is first atomized in the nozzle 14 prior to being ejected therefrom and directed toward the substrate).

Accordingly, none of the cited references discloses or suggests the combination of steps presently recited in either claim 1 or 14. Therefore, the rejections of those claims are believed to be overcome.

All remaining claims are dependent claims, and therefore are believed to be allowable by virtue of their dependence on an allowable base claim.

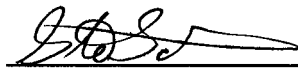
Should the examiner have any questions or reservations regarding the instant submission, or for any other reason to expedite the prosecution of this case, she is invited and requested to please contact the undersigned attorney at the phone number provided below.

If any fees required by this communication are not covered by an enclosed check, then please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, Order No. 35194US1.

Respectfully submitted,

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